



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE**

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## **The Equine Industry – Adding a Significant Contribution to Virginia Agriculture and Its Economy**

### **2006 Equine Survey Results**

The 2006 Equine Survey indicated there were an estimated 215,000 horses, ponies, and mules in Virginia on November 1, 2006, up 26 percent from the 170,000 on hand June 1, 2001. The equine industry adds a significant contribution to Virginia agriculture as well as the Commonwealth's economy.

Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds were the two leading breeds in Virginia at 49,000 and 30,900 head, respectively. The two largest equine counties were Loudoun and Fauquier at 15,500 and 14,800 head, respectively.

The 215,000 equine were located on 41,000 equine operations throughout the Commonwealth, up 41 percent from 2001. Most of the operations are located in the Central and Northern parts of the state.

The total value of all equine on November 1, 2006 was \$1.65 billion, up 13 percent from 2001. Average value per equine decreased 10 percent to \$7,697 per equine. Equine located in the Northern and Central Districts accounted for nearly 74 percent of the total value of all equine.

Virginia equine operations spent \$783 million during 2006 caring for equine, compared to \$505 million during 2001. Feed and bedding was the largest expense category at \$99.6 million. Equipment purchases and capital improvements followed at \$92.0 million and \$72.6 million, respectively. Equine expenses covering upkeep-related items accounted for 77 percent of all expenses.

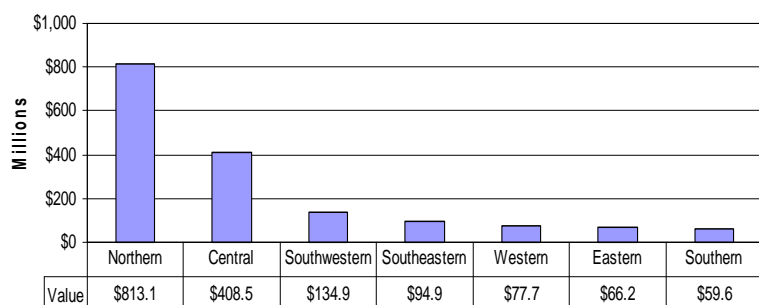
There were 15,600 equine sold in Virginia during 2006, up 21 percent. The total sales value was over \$107 million. These sales place equine as the 6<sup>th</sup> largest commodity in Virginia based on cash receipts. About 66 percent of the total value of sales occurred in the Northern District.

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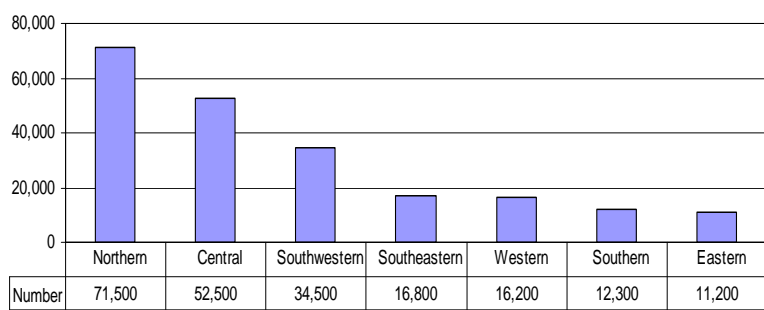
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**Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**

2006 Equine Value by District



2006 Equine Inventory by District



2006 Equine Operations, Number Sold, and Value of Sales by District

District	Equine Operations	Equine Sold	Total Value of Sales	Avg. Value Per Equine
Northern	10,400	6,000	\$70,345,000	\$11,724
Western	3,600	1,300	\$3,127,000	\$2,405
Central	10,900	3,000	\$22,941,000	\$7,647
Eastern	2,100	400	\$917,000	\$2,293
Southwestern	7,600	3,200	\$4,475,000	\$1,398
Southern	3,400	900	\$2,695,000	\$2,994
Southeastern	3,000	800	\$2,822,000	\$3,528
<b>State Total</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>\$107,322,000</b>	<b>\$6,880</b>

2006 Equine Inventory and Total Value by Breed

Breed or Category	Equine Inventory	Total Value	Avg. Value Per Equine
American Saddlebred	7,300	\$51,194,000	\$7,013
Appaloosa	9,400	\$21,525,000	\$2,290
Arabian and Anglo Arabian	13,200	\$88,808,000	\$6,728
Belgian	3,000	\$16,181,000	\$5,394
Hanoverian	2,200	\$53,745,000	\$24,430
Miniature Horses	5,800	\$10,085,000	\$1,739
Morgan	2,800	\$12,201,000	\$4,358
Paint/Pinto	10,900	\$43,157,000	\$3,959
Paso Fino	1,400	\$8,741,000	\$6,244
Percheron	2,700	\$14,716,000	\$5,450
Quarter Horse	49,000	\$181,632,000	\$3,707
Standardbred	4,000	\$18,003,000	\$4,501
Tennessee Walker	15,500	\$53,593,000	\$3,458
Thoroughbred	30,900	\$529,354,000	\$17,131
Mules/Donkeys	13,400	\$10,963,000	\$818
Ponies	13,800	\$60,586,000	\$4,390
Other Equine <sup>1/</sup>	29,700	\$480,388,000	\$16,175
<b>State Total</b>	<b>215,000</b>	<b>\$1,654,872,000</b>	<b>\$7,697</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Other includes all other light breeds, crossbreeds, warmbloods, race breeds, or draft breeds that were not published separately and all other mixed breeds.

2006 Equine Expenditures by Category (Millions)

